

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 H-01 /068 W

----- 013196

R 131140Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2737

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, NO, VS

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVES VISIT VIETNAM

REF: A. OSLO 5536; B. OSLO 408

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE SOME INITIAL RESERVATIONS ON THE PART OF THE NORWEGIANS AS TO POSSIBLE SAFETY PROBLEMS IN VISITING VIETNAM, THE SCHEDULED FEB 2-8 VISIT OF THREE NORWEGIAN LEGISLATORS WENT SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT. DURING THE VISIT, THE THREE CALLED ON A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING GVN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT THIEU, AND MADE SEVERAL TRIPS OUTSIDE THE SAIGON AREA, VISITING AN INDUSTRIAL AREA, A REFUGEE SITE, AND A REMOTE DELTA VILLAGE. THEY DEPARTED VIETNAM APPARENTLY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT THEY HAD SEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE MEMBERS OF THE NORWEGIAN STORTING, PAUL THYNESS

(CONSERVATIVE), ASBJORN HAUGSTVEDT (CHRISTIAN PEOPLES' PARTY), AND  
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EOHANNES GILLEBERG (CENTER PARTY) VISITED SOUTH VIETNAM FEB 2-8

AT THE INVITATION OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. THE THREE WERE RECEIVED THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 8 BY PRESIDENT THIEU, WHO SPOKE WITH THEM FOR AN HOUR (THE VISIT WAS SCHEDULED FOR 40 MINUTES)

AND PRESENTED EACH WITH A PERSONAL MEMENTO OF THE VISIT. THE GIFTS WERE APPARENTLY A SPONTANEOUS GESTURE ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT, AS NO EXCHANGE OF GIFTS HAD BEEN PLANNED.

4. OTHER OFFICIALS WHO MET THE THREE INCLUDED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR PHAN QUANG DAN (CONCURRENTLY MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND CHARGED WITH LAND CLEARANCE AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES), FOREIGN MINISTER VUONG VAN BAC, MINISTER OF PLANNING NGUYEN TIEN HUNG, AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION DR HO VAN CHAM. THE NORWEGIAN LAWMAKERS ALSO CALLED ON SENATE PRESIDENT TRAN VAN LAM AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NGUYEN BAOFAN, AND MET WITH CVT (VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR) LEADER TRAN QUOC BUU.

5. PARLIAMENTARIANS MADE SEVERAL TRIPS OUTSIDE THE SAIGON AREA. THEY VISITED A REMOTE AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE IN SA DEC, A RICH FARMING PROVINCE IN THE MEKONG DELTA, AND A REFUGEE CENTER IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE WHERE REFUGEES FROM PHUOC LONG PROVINCE (RECENTLY SEIZED BY NVA FORCES) ARE AWAITING RESETTLEMENT. THEY WERE REPORTEDLY IMPRESSED BY THE REFUGEES' LOOKING FORWARD TO RESETTLEMENT AND LACK OF DISCOURAGEMENT. THEY ALSO VISITED THE QUAN CHIM LEPROSARIUM IN BIEN HOA PROVINCE, WHICH RECEIVES SOME NORWEGIAN ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THE BIEN HOA INDUSTRIAL ZONE. GROUP WAS ACCOMPANIED ON ALL VISITS OUTSIDE SAIGON BY A MEMBER OF RVN LOWER HOUSE.

6. IN THE SAIGON AREA, THE THREE VISITED THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON AND THE PHU THO TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

7. MFA INFORMS US SOUTH VIETNAM WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY VISITED BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THIS TRIP. MFA DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TELLS US GROUP SEEMED VERY PLEASED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS AND FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY GVN PROGRAMS AND CONCERN FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

8. TWO NORWEGIAN AID OFFICIALS (REF A AND B) ARRIVED SAIGON FEB 11 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GVN ON HUMANITARIAN AID MATTERS. LEHMANN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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